125

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY RLS DATE 10/27/82
E.O. or XDS EXT. DATE
T.S. AUTH. A 5(D)
EXISTING PAR. NO.
DECLASSIFIED DECLASSIFIED
RELEASE DENIED
PA or FOI EXEMPTIONS

PRESS ANNOUNCEMENT

CENTRAL AFRICAN EMPIRE

September 10, 1979

We have now completed a study of the five-Nation African Jurists' Commission report on the student deaths in January and April in the Central African Empire. English translations of the summary and of selected extracts of this lengthy report, as well as the full French text, are available to you in the Press Office.

The Jurists' report confirms earlier information pertaining to the deplorable student deaths this January and April in the Central African Empire.

As you are aware, even prior to the issuance of the Jurists' Commission report we had decided to terminate US bilateral economic assistance programs. In addition, we have also told CAE officials that the US would be taking a hard look at all international financial institution loans.

Now that we have reviewed the jurists' report, Ambassador Cooke is being instructed to proceed with the earliest practical termination of our bilateral assistance programs. Thereafter, we will address the question of the nature of our diplomatic representation in Bangui.

We have no further comment at this time.

UNCLASSIFIED

IF Asked Only

Q: If asked - Reportedly the Jurists' report confirms that Zairian troops were involved in the January killings in Bangui. What are the facts?

A: ~~There~~ is minimal indication, and that hearsay, ~~in the Jurists' report~~ that Zairian troops were involved. We have looked at this question repeatedly and carefully, and find no evidence which supports the allegation. ~~There are reports and rumors, but no real evidence.~~

AF/C:ARender

Approved: AF/C:LDJunior

Clearances: AF:LWalker

9/10/79